

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, EGEN, ECIN, MX

SUBJECT: SELA: SECRETARY ALEJO RETURNS FROM LA TOUR

REF: MEXICO 2103

DEPARTMENT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

1. SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO RETURNED FROM LA TOUR MARCH 8, AND MADE FOLLOWING PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF HIS TOUR, TO PROMOTE SISTEMA ECONOMICA LATINOAMERICANO:

A. FORMAL INVITATION TO JOIN SELA WILL BE ISSUED FROM MEXICO DURING VISIT OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ BEGINNING MARCH 17; GIVEN "ENTHUSIASTIC" SUPPORT OF LA COUNTRIES, HOPE IS TO GET SELA ORGANIZED AND FUNCTIONAL BY YEAR'S END;

B. PURPOSES OF SELA ARE TO UNITE GOALS, ATTITUDES, AND VIEWPOINTS OF LA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES IN THE FACE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND TO CREATE A MECHANISM WHICH WILL PUT INTO PRACTICE FORMS OF MULTI-LATERAL COOPERATION SUCH AS LA MULTI-NATIONAL ENTERPRISES TO ACHIEVE GREATER PRODUCTIVITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THE DEFENSE OF RAW MATERIAL

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PRICES WHICH LA COUNTRIES EXPORT.

2. IN ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUERY, ALEJO CONFIRMED THAT CHILE AND ALL OTHER LA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WILL BE WELCOME TO RESPOND TO "FORMAL INVITATION" TO BE OFFERED JOINTLY NEXT WEEK BY PRESIDENTS ECHEVERRIA OF MEXICO AND PEREZ OF VENEZUELA. ALEJO STRESSED THAT SELA DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH OAS OR OTHER HEMISPHERE ORGANIZATIONS, AND DENIED THAT FACT U.S. NOT BEING INVITED TO JOIN IMPLIES THAT SELA WILL BE ANTI-AMERICAN. "THE U.S. IS NOT THE ONLY WORLD ECONOMIC POWER, AND OUR PROBLEMS DO NOT STEM SOLELY FROM ONE COUNTRY," HE SAID.

3. COMMENT: (A) ALEJO'S REPORT OF GREAT LA ENTHUSIASM FOR SELA WOULD APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY OVERSTATED. FOR EXAMPLE, URUGUAY APPARENTLY WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THE CREATION OF ANY NEW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (AS SHOWN BY URUGUAYAN ATTITUDES AT RECENTLY-COMPLETED POPULATION CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY, AND AS REPORTED IN MONTEVIDEO 763). RESERVATIONS OR CONCERNS ALSO WERE NOTED INTER ALIA IN MANAGUA 942, SANTIAGO 1458, ASUNCION 917, PORT AU PRINCE 489, AND BRASILIA 1708. THESE REPORTS CONTRAST WITH ALEJO'S ROSY PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND WITH GOV FINANCE MINISTER HURTADO'S VIEWS REPORTED CARACAS 2180; (B) EMBASSY HOPES THAT WASHINGTON IA-ECOSOC MEETING IS PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG LA STATES CONCERNING THEIR RESERVATIONS AND CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW REPORT THAT PRESIDENTS ECHEVERRIA AND PEREZ PLAN ISSUE "FORMAL INVITATION" NEXT WEEK FOR LA AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TO JOIN SELA NEXT WEEK. JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALL ARA POSTS.

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